

NO. XXVII. CHRISTIAN
FATALISM.

**THE
General's Letter.**

**SOLDIERS
OF THE
SALVATION ARMY
Scattered through the
WORLD.**

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MY DEAR COMRADES,

I have been thinking lately about the opinion which many Christian people seem to entertain that the existing religious condition of things is according to the will of God, and that it cannot be altered or improved without the Divine interference, and that God does not interfere, because He does not care much to have things different. This is "fatalism," and leaves the responsibility of the sin, and vice, and misery of mankind entirely with God. Wherever this spirit prevails, it must clip the wings of that energy so much needed in Salvation warfare. I fear less of my own comrades, should catch this infection, and not only be thereby damned in the discharge of your self-sacrificing duties, but expose yourselves with the doubtful success I have just mentioned.

Fatalism, on most of my comrades know, is one of the distinctive features of Mohammedanism, and, more or less, of every Asiatic religion. Mohammed taught that every event in human life was an arrangement of the Providence of God, that whatever happened must be taken therefore as an expression of the Divine will, and consequently unavoidable, and that to fight against it was neither more nor less than flying in the face of the Almighty.

Now, while most Christians would deny this Fatalism—this doctrine that teaches that whatever is to be, will be in relation to the events of everyday life, they would justify their conduct towards a dying world by the notion, that political relations and rebellious and iniquities of man cannot be altered; that they must wait God's time and interference before anything remarkable can be done to improve things.

Now this doctrine that God has His own way in this world is one that I totally deny, as you will not need me to tell you. It may be true of Hell, where God will no longer oppose the progress of evil; where sin, and the misery that ever follows in its train, will be permitted to have their own way. He will allow it to be so. He will not interfere. The Holy Ghost will no longer strive or oppose. Evil will reign supreme.

God will have His own way in Heaven, where every force—human, angelic, and divine—will be God-like and pure and true. Whatever happens will be—may, must be the will of God—expressive of His pleasure, and therefore must be good.

But this cannot be true of earth, where, without controversy, active, voluntary agents fight against God—oppose His pleasure, and therefore must be evil, work poverty, crime, vice, misery, death and perdition, and reluctantly refuse to be turned away from the work they set themselves to do.

Nothing is more common than for God to be defeated. The devil conquers and reigns. In fact, a man may be absolutely spiritually blind who does not see that the devil is indeed and, of a truth the Prince of this world. Don't you see every day—every hour—how he and his servants plunder the poor, subvert the virtuous, deprive the little children, drag the righteous away from God, and in ten thousand forms pour their vile, burning, cruel, damnable lava of depravity and iniquity over the world?

No one can say that the Lord's will is done in this world. The contrary is evident to every eye. All Christians know what that will is, and yet this fatalism that we are describing not only seems to this hellish condition of things as necessary, but with plume tail indifferently

stretches all this to God, and makes it but be a species of impiety to think otherwise, and regards it as showing wicked impudence to be restlessly fighting and resisting it with all possible might.

There is some difference, perhaps, between the Asiatic and Christian fatalism. By the former unavoidable evils, in temporal things are accepted. Man and woman resign themselves to famine, poverty, plague, and death, these things being considered as messengers from God: whereas Christians will fight these evils and move heaven and earth in the attempt to avert them. But ask these same Christians to oppose spiritual evil and destruction in the same way, and they will feel and act quite differently. Thousands who would stand up and fight a fever amongst their cattle, scolding the idea that it was of God, resting on every opponent and hot-bed of the disease, loathing the unsly, and stamping it out of existence, if asked to fight the deadly contagion of sin, to shut up the public-house, close the brothel, abate the brawls, and use all means taught in the Bible, and suggested by the Holy Ghost to clear the neighbourhood of sin, the people would be abashed at the very idea.

If they don't say that, whatever it is, is right in the way of iniquity, they will say practically, "What is it, must be." We must wait till God prepares the way, and open the door. And when you push them up to doing something desperate and to keep on doing it till they have conquered, going through floods of opposition and difficulties in the fight, they will look upon you as fighting against

Not ten thousand times no! Any gen-

When we see a soul saved by us, we recognise it as a victory on the part of God as for as that one soul goes; but if there is nobody saved do not let us say in sacred moments, phrasology, that the Lord's will has been done and that things are all right.

If we cannot get money to run on the War, or men to fight and die for Jesus Christ, or people who will be true to the Corps when they have enrolled themselves in the ranks, a march under the colours, do not let us say that it is not the Lord's will that we should have the money or find the men, or keep the Soldiers a right and good. That is, if we fail in anything, it is not for us to say that our failure proves the Lord's will. It may just prove the contrary. God's will is always, and everywhere, that sin should be destroyed—'Let devils be sent back to Hell, and that all men about it, as well. If we fail through the unfaithfulness of those about us, let us admit it and say that our failure is of the devil, and go to work and get things altered and mended.

A good general in any human war would not say in an hour of defeat, "Providence is against me—this cowardice of my troops, or these unexpected manoeuvres of the enemy, or this breakdown in my supplies, prove that it is the Lord's will that the foe should be victorious and take possession of these forts and cover our arms and country with disgrace. It is of no use my trying again, I will resign my command and go home to my grateful Country!"

Not ten thousand times no! Any gen-

victory must in the long run be on his side; anyway, he will fight on while the power of fighting is left.

My comrades, if we conquer, it is through the power of the great Jehovah, and if we are defeated, it is in company with Him; moreover, defeat must, in the very nature of things, be only temporary. Our own strength, our everything is in keeping on fighting.

Yours in the war,

WILLIAM DIGHT.

NEWCASTLE.

"If God be for us, who can be against us?" Although the devil rages, still we are marching along. Hallelujah! The past week has been one of blessing, and one of desperate conflict with the devil. Meetings very good all the week. On Sunday our meetings were grand; afternoon especially; some weeping in their seats. We were reinforced by some Bowmanville Band, and Five Soldiers, who did us good service. We had a grand march—twenty-three Soldiers—the largest march I have seen in Newcastle. Some say the Army is going down, yet so we are, to pick up poor sinners out of the gutter.

Idell. Dever.

CREEMORE.

CANNOT BE FRIGHTENED OUT. Hail! they said the Army was going down! What does this mean? Oh on the march, and they are all so happy.

Cobourg.

A STRAIGHT SHOT.

Praise God! we are alive and giving battle to the devil. What do you think? I don't know. Why, Cobourg is going up!

Two souls and three wanderers returned.

A great broad set man, half tipsy, said, "That he felt led by the Spirit of God to come into the barracks, and every word that was said about his right in the heart; he felt the meeting was expressly for him. He was brought up of wealthy and praying parents, but ran away from home (State of New York) and was left away. He also had a praying wife, but owing to his drinking habits she could not stay with him. He has been separated from her several years. For 15 years he has been connected with Frank Robins' American Circus.

driving a hand wagon, and other things connected with the devil's plaything; but praise God he thanked the blessed Saviour that He led him into the despised Salvation Army barracks, for Jesus had shown him the light."

He has left the circus, and will go home to his wife, and trust God in the future. Glory, praise, and power to God forever.

Another one who had resisted the Spirit thought he could not get right, but as soon as he got on the narrow

**A War Spirit
Wanted.**

That show in the picture is in for a fight. And why not? Reason enough to make any one fight!

What a spirit of fight is all over the world now-a-days. China, Egypt, Russia, France, India, England, and other nations, seem "spilling for a fight." From the king to the cook, everybody is talking about war.

That woman after the eagle with her fable is beyond talking about war. She is into it to the hilt, everybody is talking about war.

Now we want a terrible War Spirit in the Salvation Army, and hope our comrades may all get there talking will be merged in the real battle.

Look again at that woman on the mountain top. Study how the case fits you. Her war spirit is

Natural and Necessary.

It is in her very blood and bones to fight to rescue her child. And you, my comrades, if you have the blood of Jesus in your veins, will instinctively and naturally fight to rescue poor souls. You will have to fight the devil who is hurrying away poor souls to the devouring pit. That woman will

Fight without Coaxing.

Oh what a pity that God's Soldiers have to be coaxed, bribed—yes, even threatened, to get them into the battle. I don't mean that we human officers do much threatening—but don't you think the Holy Spirit does a deal of it? Does He not often drive home to your hearts those warnings of God's Word, and then you go into the battle, to the spear, to the sword, to the rifle, to the gun, to the machine gun, to the King says you. You get a blessing. But would you not have a double blessing if you had rushed into the battle with a will, instead of being pressed into it?

Something at Stake.

Think of it. Her darling babe torn from her with as she worked in the fields. I suppose she said, "I'm a Christian, I've got my soul saved, every breath and every pulse-beat said, "My child, my brain, my babe."

Oh! we need Soldiers, Officers who will cry out—gasp out—Soul! Soul!! SOULS!!!

Perishing Souls must be saved!

Shook it out until sinners move, heaven moves, every going Christian move—and the whole Army move faster than ever to pick the prey from the night.

The Heroine is

Desperately Careless.

No matter if people call her crazy—no matter if they criticize her rude speech, and tell her how much better a homing-ton rifle would be. What care she if they cry out,

Ho! O! where are your shoes blind to reputation, is she? Ay, and far more ready to die than to explain it?

Oh! for an "Inspiration"

to get hold of our dear comrades.

We have lately been thrilled by reading of the desperate fanaticism of the wounded Soldiers who, when unable to hold their weapons in their hands, seized their spears in their teeth and crawled along to destroy their half dead enemies.

If you want a do-shouting religion, then you must keep up a do-shouting religion. When Saul, of Tarsus was filled with the devil, he bristled out threatening and slaughter against the Kingdom of Jesus. When filled with the Spirit, he was equally fired with

Vengeance against the Devil.

Sold Soldiers run the world upside down, and bring fire "peace of this world" back to bit.

All right about "bright dreams" and "visions of glory," but let's see, but what about your own soul?

Are you going with that love for
poor perishing souls which
makes people desperate?



A MOTHER'S LOVE.

Providence, and attempting the impossibilities.

My comrades, most of the existing conditions in the social, moral, political, and religious state of things are wrong and of the devil. God says so. The carnal mind—which is, without controversy, the mind of the majority—is at enmity with God. He is truth. The truth crucified the Truth when He came in human form and was crucified to crucify Him wherever He is represented. Let us acknowledge this, and let us come to say in any shape or form that the will of God is being done, except where men and women are being made right and good and holy. And more than this, where those who have been thus made right are not spending their whole strength in making other people right.

They have got a salvation which cannot be frightened out. Jesus is the leader. Hallelujah! Meetings: read all week. Sunday morning the power of God was felt, and

One backslider went like we back to Jesus, Hallelujah! Sunday afternoon grand march, and in the barracks the Lord came down mightily power, and

two souls came

to the loving Saviour, and He cleansed their hearts from sin and they went away rejoicing in a sin pardoning trial. Sunday night as we said farewell to the people of Creemore, and entrusted them to God for the great judgment day. Closed trial in body but happy in the Lord. Hallelujah!

Lieut. Weiss is, Capt. Hildner

bones and humbled himself. God spoke peace to his heart. Bless the Lord for ever. This horizon is clearing. Pray for us.

Capt. Wiggins and Wife. Lieut. Giddan.

St. Anns.

We are having some good meetings in this little place. The people are beginning to feel their need of salvation. Glory be to God.

Sunday night good meetings, power of God felt, deep conviction, but best of all

Three Precious Souls

came to the penitent form for salvation. Hallelujah!

Capt. Smith, Cadets Eerton and Synnos.

